EnviroNews

New to SmartWay™

Subaru of America announced that its 2008 Partial Zero Emission Vehicles (PZEV) Legacy, Outback and Forester naturally aspirated models have received EPA's SmartWay™ Certification. These vehicles are now listed in the Green Vehicle Guide that recommends the cleanest and most fuel-efficient vehicle choices.

The EPA Green Vehicle Guide uses emission level and fuel economy values to determine scores for cars and trucks. Vehicles with very good or superior environmental scores are indicated with the SmartWay or SmartWay Elite™.

Three pieces of information about a vehicle's environmental performance are presented: the Air Pollution Score; the Greenhouse Gas; and, if eligible, the SmartWay or SmartWay Elite designation. If you score well on both Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gas scores EPA assigns a SmartWay designation.

The Subaru PZEV's have 90 percent cleaner emissions than the average new vehicle. PZEV's are the cleanest vehicles available today and they meet emissions standards that are sometimes even cleaner than some hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles.

EnviroQuestion

Question: How much fuel is wasted annually in the United States due to traffic congestion?
a. 9.5 million gallons
b. .9 billion gallons
c. 1.5 trillion gallons
d. 5.1 trillion gallons

Answer in the next issue.

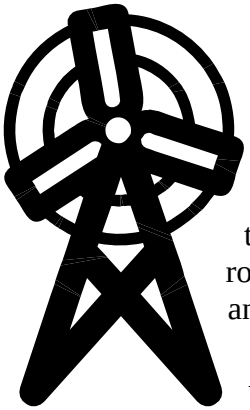
Quarter I Question: What is your carbon footprint?

Answer: Go to www.carbonfootprint.com to calculate yours.

Wind Energy: An Overview

The concept of wind energy is not new. Wind energy has been used for thousands of years with sailboats and wind mills to grind grain. Wind energy can either be used directly, as with these applications or it can be converted into electricity.

A wind-electric turbine generator works just like a hydroelectric generator. At hydropower stations throughout the U.S. and the world, the energy that is contained in falling or flowing water is used to spin the rotor if a turbine, and the turbine rotor drives the shaft of a generator to produce electricity.



Wind energy works in a very similar way. In the case of wind the "river" is an invisible one made of air, but the principle is the same. As the air flows past the rotor of a wind turbine, the rotor spins and drives the shaft of an electric generator.

A wind turbine's rotor capable of generating 1 megawatt of power would be approximately 175 feet across, this is much larger than that for a hydro turbine. The upside though is that wind is available across a larger geographical range than hydropower. About one-third of the country has enough wind to generate electricity economically.

Wind energy is appealing because it is essentially pollution-free. More than half of all the electricity that is used in the United States is generated from burning coal. This process causes large amounts of toxic metals, air pollutants, and greenhouse gasses to be emitted to the atmosphere.

Did You Know?

Insulating your attic reduces the amount of energy loss in most houses by 20 percent.

IN THE NEWS

Massachusetts Companies and Employees Make Headlines

The owner of Environmental Compliance Training was charged in federal court with falsely reporting that the school had training individuals in asbestos removal work. The indictment alleges that the company issued certificates to untrained people who were then given authorization from the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety to work in the asbestos removal industry.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) penalized a Holyoke company for air quality and hazardous waste violations. The violations were discovered at Dielectric Polymer, Incorporated, some of the hazardous waste violations included inadequate aisle spacing for storage of hazardous waste and failure to notify the MADEP of solvent recycling activities. The company agreed to pay an $8,000 penalty and has initiated corrective actions to address the issues.

Continued next column

A large Massachusetts-based property management companies may be subject to a significant penalty. The Chestnut Hill Realty Corp as well as the owners of the properties managed by the company violated the federal Lead Disclosure Rule when they failed to disclose information about lead paint to people who rented or purchased apartments in 2004 and 2005.

The purpose of the Lead Disclosure Rule is to provide residential renters and purchasers of pre-1978 housing with information so that they can make informed decisions about potential housing purchases or leases.

EPA Protection

Find out How EPA determines how to protect the environment. Environmental indicators are kinds of data that describe the condition of the land, water, and air.

Go to http://cfpub.epa.gov/eroe/

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Going Back to School Green

Here are some simple tips for being greener when choosing back to school supplies:

Reuse supplies: search for products that can used again, such as lunch bags, reusable containers, and refillable pens and pencils.

Buy in bulk: stock up on items that will be needed in the future to eliminate unnecessary repacking.

Buy recycled paper: purchase paper that is 100 percent post-consumer recycled and chlorine free, this reduces sold waste and emissions of dioxin.

Go organic: from clothing, food and other products, these are natural, chemical-free or locally produced.

Rethink transportation: ask the bus driver not to idle while waiting for kids, if the kids walk map out a safe route and carpool to decrease miles traveled.

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